UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23203
8 November 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 8 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text, in English and French, of a declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the European Community and its member States at their ministerial meeting held in Rome on 8 November 1991.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard P. H. P. MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English/French]

Declaration on Yugoslavia

(Extraordinary EPC Ministerial meeting,
Rome, 8 November 1991)

The European Community and its member States held an extraordinary Ministerial meeting in Rome today, 8 November 1991, to assess the Yugoslav crisis. They took note of the evaluation presented by Lord Carrington of the 8th plenary session of the Yugoslav Conference which took place in The Hague on 5 November.

The were deeply concerned at the fact that the fighting and indiscriminate bloodshed continued in spite of repeated cease-fire commitments. In this respect, they drew attention to the unacceptable threats and use of force against the population of Dubrovnik. Moreover, commitments for deblocking of barracks and withdrawal of JNA forces, to which parties subscribed on 18 October in The Hague and were reaffirmed on 5 November, have not been complied with. They reiterate that the use of force and a policy of fait accompli to achieve changes of borders is illusory and will never be recognized by the Community and its member States.

The Community and its member States also noted with great concern that the basic elements of the proposals on behalf of the Twelve put forward by Lord Carrington, aimed at a comprehensive political situation, have not been supported by all the parties. As a consequence, the negotiating process has been put in jeopardy.

In the light of the seriousness of the situation, the Community and its member States have decided to take the following measures:

- immediate suspension of the application of the trade and cooperation Agreement with Yugoslavia and a decision to terminate the same Agreement,

- restoration of the quantitative limits for textiles,

- removal of Yugoslavia from the list of beneficiaries of the General System of Preferences,

- formal suspension of benefits under the Phare programme. Yugoslavia has not been invited to take part in the next Ministerial meeting of G-24 on 11 November 1991.

Furthermore the Community and its member States asked those member States which are also members of the Security Council of the United Nations to invite the Security Council to reach agreement on additional measures to enhance the effectiveness of the arms embargo.

They, in the same way, also invited the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary steps towards imposing an oil embargo.

Additional economic and political measures are being considered for implementation when and wherever necessary.

The Community and its member States decided that positive compensatory measures will be applied vis-à-vis parties which do cooperate in a peaceful way towards a comprehensive political solution on the basis of the EC proposals.

The Community and its member States remain firmly committed to such a comprehensive political arrangement. They stress that the only way out of the crisis is through negotiations in good faith without the use of force.

In this respect they recall that the prospect of recognition of the independence of those Republics wishing it, can only be envisaged in the framework of an overall settlement, that includes adequate guarantees for the protection of human rights and rights of national or ethnic groups. They urge parties concerned to prepare forthwith legal provisions to this end.

The Community and its member States are also extremely concerned about the humanitarian aspects of the crisis and insist that all parties involved allow emergency aid to reach the communities in need and the many persons displaced by the fighting. All involved should be reminded of their personal responsibility in complying with the basic humanitarian standards set out in the Geneva Conventions.

Despite the continuous violations of the cease-fire, the Conference is the only place where talks on a peaceful solution can continue among all parties.

In the light of the above, the Community and its member States launch an urgent appeal to the parties concerned to create the necessary conditions for an early continuation of the Conference. They urge other countries to support their positions.